

Message Text

PAGE 01 BANGKO 25029 080257Z

20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

MCT-01 SY-05 OMB-01 ORM-02 DHA-02 /068 W

----- 018260

R 080212Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3013

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 25029

FOL MSG SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO VIENTIANE FROM UDORN SEP 76
IS REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 5988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJECT: ANTI-VIETNAMESE ACTIVITY IN NORTHEAST AUG 30-
SEPTEMBER 6

REF: A. UDORN 5859 B. UDORN 5926

SUMMARY: THERE WERE CONTINUED DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST VIETNAMESE
MINORITY IN SAKHON NAKHON AND NAKHON PHANOM PROVINCES WEEK OF AUGUST
30-SEPTEMBER 6. MOST SIGNIFICANT RALLY OCCURRED IN NA KAE DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 1 RESULTING IN FORCED DEPARTURE OF 27 VIETNAMESE FAMILIES
FROM DISTRICT TOWN. MOUNTING EVIDENCE POINTS TO HEAVY CHAT THAI
PARTY INVOLVEMENT IN ANTI-VIETNAMESE ACTIVITY WITH KEY ROLE APPARENTLY

BEING PLAYED BY DEPUTY EDUCATION MINISTER DABCHAI AKKARACH WHO IS
CHAT THAI MP FROM SAKHON NAKHON. NEW TACTICS OF SEEKING PERSONAL
CONFRONTATION WITH VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS BY DEMONSTRATORS GREATLY
INCREASES POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN CASUALTIES IN FUTURE PROTEST RALLIES
THAT SEEM CERTAIN TO OCCUR. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 25029 080257Z

1. PAST WEEK WITNESSED RENEWED SERIES OF DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST
VIETNAMESE MINORITY IN SAKHON NAKHON AND NAKHON PHANOM (NKP) PRO-
VINCE. ONLY MAJOR ACT OF VIOLENCE REPORTED OCCURRED IN NA KAE
DISTRICT, NKP PROVINCE, AUGUST 31, WHEN SEVERAL DEMONSTRATORS HURLED

TWO PLASTIC BOMBS ON RAOD IN FRONT OF DISTRICT OFFICE INJURING ONE OF DEMONSTRATORS.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT DEMONSTRATION DURING PERIOD TOOK PLACE IN NA KAE DISTRICT TOWN SEPTEMBER 1. DEPUTY DISTRICT OFFICER INFORMED CONSULATE'S

LOCAL EMPLOYEE THAT ON THAT DATE APPROXIMATELY 300 PROTESTORS, FOLLOW-

ING FAILURE OF LOCAL OFFICIALS TO RESPOND TO EARLIER DEMAND TO REMOVE VIETNAMESE FAMILIES FROM TOWN BY AUGUST 31, MARCHED THROUGH STREETS OF TOWN STOPPING AT EACH VIETNAMESE RESIDENCE AND FORCED HEAD OF FAMILY TO COME OUT AND MEET WITH PROTESTORS WHO THREATENED HIM WITH

DEATH IF HE DID NOT LEAVE TOWN WITHIN 24 HOURS. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY DISTRICT OFFICER FOLLOWING MORNING 27 VIETNAMESE FAMILIES, NUMBERING APPROXIMATELY 140 PERSONS, DEPARTED TOWN AFTER BEING ASSISTED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS WITH COMPLETING NECESSARY PAPERWORK (I.E. CHANGE OF RESIDENCE PERMITS, ETC.). OF THIS GROUP 12 FAMILIES REPORTEDLY MOVED TO UDORN CITY, 5 FAMILIES TO NKP CITY AND REMAINDER GOING TO THAT PHANOM DISTRICT TOWN, NKP PROVINCE, AND SAKHON NAKHON CITY. DEPUTY DISTRICT OFFICER CLAIMS THAT ONLY FEW VIETNAMESE WHO ARE MARRIED TO THAIS REMAIN IN NA KAE DISTRICT TOWN.

3. OTHER ANTI-VIETNAMESE RALLIES DURING PAST WEEK WERE HELD IN THAT PHANOM DISTRICT TOWN, NKP PROVINCE, AUGUST 30 AND SEPTEMBER 3; NKP CITY, AUGUST 30; AND SAWANG DAEN DIN DISTRICT TOWN, SAKHON NAKHON PROVINCE, SEPTEMBER 1. (THERE WAS ALSO A LATE PRESS REPORT OF POLICE ARREST OF YOUTH IN SAKHON NAKHON CITY AUGUST 28 FOR ATTEMPTED ARSON OF VIETNAMESE SHOPHOUSE).

4. PROTEST RALLY IN THAT PHANOM, SEPTEMBER 3, CONSISTING MOSTLY OF SAMLOR DRIVERS AND LABORERS, FOLLOWED TACTICS OF NA KAE PROTESTORS BY SENDING SEARCH PARTY TO LOCATE LOCAL VIETNAMESE LEADER AND THREATEN HIM WITH BODILY HARM IF HE DID NOT REMOVE HIS PEOPLE FROM TOWN. HOWEVER, SEARCH PARTY FAILED TO FIND VIETNAMESE LEADER SO RALLIERS SET DEADLINE FOR ESTIMATED 700 VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS TO LEAVE TOWN WITHIN 15 DAYS. ANOTHER RALLY IS SCHEDULED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 25029 080257Z

SEPTEMBER 17. OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEE, WHO WITNESSED SEPTEMBER 3 RALLY, REPORTED THAT ALL VIETNAMESE SHOPS IN THAT PHANOM TOWN WERE CLOSED. SOME VIETNAMESE SHOPOWNERS WERE REPORTEDLY REMOVING GOODS FROM THEIR STORES FOR SAFEKEEPING IN RESIDENCES OF THAI FRIENDS.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS DEMONSTRATION IN NKP CITY AUGUST 30 LED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED VOCATIONAL STUDENTS GATHERED IN FRONT OF MUNICIPAL MARKET, EMPHASIZED LOCAL ECONOMIC GRIEVANCES AGAINST VIETNAMESE. DEMONSTRATORS, EQUIPPED WITH LOUDSPEAKERS, LATER MARCHED ON CITY HALL WHERE THEY ATTACKED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR GRANTING BUSINESS PERMITS TO VIETNAMESE FOR OCCUPATIONS THAT ARE SUPPOSEDLY RESERVED FOR THAIS ONLY.

6. INFORMATION WE HAVE OBTAINED FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS, PRESS REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMED SOURCES STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT CHAT THAI PARTY MEMBERS ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING AND COORDINATING ANTI-VIETNAMESE ACTIVITY IN NORTHEAST DURING PAST SIX WEEKS. KEY FIGURE IN THIS REGARD APPEARS TO BE DEPUTY EDUCATION MINISTER AND CHAT THAI MP FROM SAKHON NAKHON DABCHAI AKKARACH. PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT DEP ED MIN DABCHAI HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT BOTH IN BANGKOK AND SAKHON NAKHON WITH LEADERS OF SEVERAL GROUPS OF ANTI-VIETNAMESE DEMONSTRATORS. HE IS REPORTED IN PRACHACHAT AUGUST 31 AS WARNING THAT IF GOVERNMENT DOES NOT TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY TO RESOLVE VIETNAMESE MINORITY PROBLEM IT WILL GREATLY INCREASE. PRACHACHAT REPORTS HIM FURTHER AS STATING THAT FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST VIETNAMESE WERE LIKELY TO OCCUR IN NA KAE AND THAT PHANOM DISTRICT (PROTEST RALLIES TOOK PLACE IN BOTH DISTRICTS ON SEPTEMBER 1 AND 3 RESPECTIVELY), ADDING THAT THERE WAS ALSO PLAN TO LYNCH SOME VIETNAMESE.

7. IN APPARENT RESPONSE TO FORMIN PHICHA'S STATEMENT CARRIED IN BANGKOK PRESS AUGUST 30 THAT A "THIRD PARTY" MAY BE PLOTTING ANTI-VIETNAMESE DEMONSTRATIONS TO SABOTAGE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN BANGKOK AND HANOI, DEP ED MIN DABCHAI IS REPORTED IN NATION SEPTEMBER 2 AS CLAIMING THAT COMMUNIST INSURGENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INCITING LOCAL YOUTHS IN SAKHON NAKHON TO HARASS VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS. INSURGENTS DABCHAI REPORTEDLY ASSERTED, FEAR THAT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND VIETNAM WOULD HINDER THEIR OPERATIONS BY DEPRIVING THEM OF HANOI'S SUPPORT. HE ALSO DENIED ANY ISOC CONNECTION WITH DEMONSTRATIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BANGKO 25029 080257Z

8. CHAT THAI PARTY EFFORTS TO KEEP PRESSURE BUILDING UNDER VIETNAMESE MINORITY ISSUE TOOK NEW TWIST WITH REPORT IN NATION SEPTEMBER 4 THAT CHAT THAI MP SAMARN CHOMPUTHAP, LAMPHUN, HAS WRITTEN A LETTER TO SEVERAL EMBASSIES IN BANGKOK DENOUNCING 40,000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO FLED TO THAILAND IN LATE 1940'S FOR COMMITTING CRIMES RANGING FROM PETTY LARCENY TO POLITICAL INSURGENCY. MP SAMARN ADDED IN HIS LETTER THAT UN SHOULD TAKE URGENT ACTION TO REPATRIATE THESE REFUGEES TO VIETNAM.

9. IN ADDITION TO CHAT THAI PARTY INVOLVEMENT WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM RELIABLE SOURCES OF NAWAPHON'S CONNECTION WITH ANTI-VIETNAMESE DEMONSTRATIONS. HOWEVER, NAWAPHON'S ROLE HAS BEEN MUCH MORE COVERT THAN THAT THAI'S. CONSEQUENTLY WE ARE UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO PROVIDE NAMES OF NAWAPHON LEADERSHIP BEHIND PROTEST RALLIES.

10. COMMENT: DEMONSTRATION IN NA KAE DISTRICT TOWN SEPTEMBER 1 IS FIRST PROTEST GATHERING THUS FAR THAT HAS SUCCEEDED IN ACTUALLY EXPELLING VIETNAMESE FROM AN AREA. USE OF SAME TYPE OF PERSONAL CONFRONTATION TACTICS BY PROTESTORS IN THAT PHANOM DISTRICT TWO DAYS LATER ADDS MENACING NEW NOTE TO ANTI-VIETNAMESE ACTIVITY. TO DATE VIOLENCE ACCOMPANYING DEMONSTRATIONS HAS BEEN LARGELY IMPERSONAL I.E. DIRECTED AGAINST VIETNAMESE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OR HOMES.

SHOULD PROTESTORS IN FUTURE RALLIES, WHICH SEEM BOUND TO OCCUR,
SEEK SAME TYPE OF PERSONAL CONFRONTATION WITH VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS
AS DONE IN NA KAE AND THAT PHANOM THIS PAST WEEK, POTENTIAL FOR
REAL BLOODSHED WILL INCREASE MARKEDLY.

FINNEY

UNQUOTE BURKE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 16 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MINORITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO25029
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760338-0999
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609108/baaaerrk.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTI-VIETNAMESE ACTIVITY IN NORTHEAST AUG 30-
TAGS: PINT, TH, VN, VS
To: n/a INFO STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006